

Starting in Nursery Class - Little Acorns

**St Mary's Church of England Primary School,
Writhlington**

- Be the best you can be -



Welcome!

Welcome to our Nursery Class - Little Acorns, at St Mary's Church of England Primary and Nursery School! This is an exciting time for you and your child and we aim to make everyone joining our Nursery (children and parents/carers included) an enjoyable, special time. We hope this booklet will answer some of the questions most frequently asked by parents/carers. If you would like to know anything that hasn't been covered here, please feel free to come and ask any one of us, at any time.

The practitioners in our Nursery are a team made up of fully qualified experienced staff who make the Nursery environment an inclusive, loving, nurturing and exciting place to be!



Dee Pielez
Early Years
Practitioner



Val Gulliford
Early Years
Practitioner



Abbie Teall
Early Years
Practitioner



Amy Langley
Early Years
Practitioner



Miss Hamblin
Early Years Lead

We believe in positive parent-practitioner relationships as this is essential to building secure foundations during your child's time with us - and you will often be invited into Nursery to enjoy a range of different sessions and activities with us!

About Us

We follow the statutory Early Years Framework to ensure your child can achieve their potential during their time with us. We believe that children are embarking upon a unique and dynamic journey, and the following principles underpin what we do...

A Unique Child

Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. Your child has a Key Person. This is the practitioner who is responsible for the care, learning and development of your child, and is the key contact for you as a parent.

The key person will get to know you and your child very well.

Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships. We provide care that fosters a sense of belonging, supporting your child's efforts, needs and interests.

Enabling Environments

Our learning environment is inclusive, stimulating and inspiring. We reflect on children's interests, from every culture and community, and we value learning. We have an indoor and outdoor area which the children can use. We also have the surrounding beautiful grounds - which is part of the Nursery too!

Learning and Development

Children learn and develop in different ways. We provide playful and challenging opportunities across every aspect of learning and development - including those with disabilities and special educational needs.

Our Principles

Characteristics of Effective Learning

We aim to share and encourage these essential values with your child to give them a life long love for learning

Playing and Exploring - Engagement

Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go'!

Active Learning - Motivation

Being involved and concentrating
Keeping trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and Thinking Critically - Thinking

Having their own ideas
Making links
Choosing ways to do things

These principles are part of the foundations of our practice.

Sessions

We run morning and afternoon sessions from 9:00am - 12:00pm and 12:00pm to 3:00pm from Monday to Friday.

We operate a 'soft opening' session in the mornings for families who have children that attend the school from 08:45-9:00. We welcome you to come and join us in the nursery with your child, until your paid session begins. Sessions run during term times only.

What does my child do during a Nursery Session?

We welcome parents/carers into the nursery in the morning (or afternoon session) to ensure your child feels safe and secure, and happy to say goodbye to you!

We have exciting activities to engage and inspire your child when they arrive - please feel free to come in and play as well!

We have a short session called **Together Time** to register children and share the daily activities with your child - based on their interests.

After this session, children have use of both the indoor and outdoor areas during a session called 'independent learning time'. They play with toys, activities and resources they choose, and the adults play and engage with them too - it's great fun!

We have a fantastic learning environment with the use of different play areas, including... cosy corner, maths area, writing area, creative area, malleable area, construction area, small world area, computer/ICT area, role-play/home corner area, sand area and water area.

We also have a number of weekly sessions, which take place outside in our conservation area. This is a fantastic learning environment - it includes a large pond and a fire pit. The children are able to climb trees, explore the natural world, take appropriate risks and develop a range of essential life skills. We really value these sessions (ad so do our children), and we go outside in all weather conditions!

We inspire children by reflecting their interests in play.

We are a Church of England school and teach Christian values as part of our learning ethos.



Other Information

What you need to bring to a Nursery Session...

- A named drinking bottle filled with water only
- Wellies
- Spare set of clothes
- Sunhat (when appropriate)
- Waterproof coat
- If your child is potty training/in nappies, please bring nappies/pull-ups and wipes. These are stored in a named box in our changing facility for your child to access with their key person.

Your child will have their own labelled peg for their belongings. Please label all items!

Uniform

We encourage your child to wear the school uniform. This can be purchased at the following website: <https://gooddies.co.uk/>

Snack Times

We provide milk and a snack during a structured snack time during the morning session. In the afternoons, we provide a 'rolling snack' and encourage the children to come to the snack bar for snack. The snacks are healthy, balanced and varied. Children under 5 are entitled to free milk and fruit. Water is readily available throughout both sessions.

Lunches

Please provide a healthy packed lunch if your child is staying for a session which covers lunch time. Please refer to our information sheet for ideas and suggestions. Children who are in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium are entitled to a lunch provided by the school (for only two sessions per week).

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

If you think your child may be eligible for EYPP, please contact the school office, where we can support you in claiming this additional funding. EYPP is government funded and if your child is eligible, funds are contributed to the school for the purpose of supporting your child in session. Please do not hesitate to ask as we welcome you applying for this funding.

Learning Diaries

We use an online system called Tapestry for recording, tracking and sharing your child's learning. Tapestry is an online 'Learning Journal', which enables staff to add videos, photos, observations and assessments of activities your child participates in at school/nursery and enables you to view them too!

We are very enthusiastic about using this system at St Mary's, and hope you are as well, and that you will utilise it to share the learning you do at home too! Please take a look at this website to find out more information about Tapestry: <https://tapestry.info>.

We also capture your child's learning experiences in a folder called a learning diary. We add written observations and store some of your children's creations, so you can share your child's experiences - this is a document you'll want to keep forever! You will be invited into Nursery regularly to see your child's learning diary, and you are encouraged to add to it too!

Thank you for taking the time to read this. You can find more information on our school website: <http://www.stmaryswrithlington.co.uk/> or on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/StMarysWrithlington/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWrithlington/)

If you have any further questions, please contact the school and someone will be happy to help!